

# Meeting minutes, Feb. 12, 2008

## Opening

A meeting of the Utah Upland Game Advisory Committee was held on this date.

## Present

Jim Gaskill, Chair

Dave Olsen, (DWR Upland Game Program Coordinator)

Steve Gaskill, Travis Proctor, John Staley, Bret Dixon, Hal Smith, Jess Hofberger, Joe Morinski, Newton Gaskill,

## Old business:

A. Proclamation recommendations- Dave Olson explained that he has received feedback from some DWR personnel regarding the recommendations made in the last meeting as follows:

1. Chukar later opening date was well received
2. Unified, statewide chukar season is still being discussed—Division shares same concerns that committee held. Other possibilities were also discussed, but the committee generally favors one statewide season.
3. Hungarian/chukar unified season? Chukar Foundation supports unified season. General committee feeling seems to support simple, unified season.
4. Sharp-tail season recommendation well received
5. Sage grouse season recommendation well received, but pending litigation may require waiting for implementation.
6. Forest grouse season recommendation—blue grouse vulnerability a concern, as well as concerns about archery and chicks resulted in season close date well received, but opening was not.
7. Landowner opposition to pheasant season recommendation resulted in poor reception.

8. Guzzler hunting recommendation poorly received for enforcement concerns.

9. Youth hunts and planting recommendations on hold, but improvements are being discussed internally.

B. Sage Grouse Update- Dave Olson reported that due to recent court directives the sage grouse studies done in recent years will need to be reviewed and updated. Population data across the Western states are currently being reviewed. Courts and Fish and Wildlife Service have mandated timelines for information compilation. Will require extensive labor to complete. This year's season will likely not be substantially affected, but next year's may.

C. Chukar/guzzler study update—postponed until next meeting due to traffic problems. Randy will present next meeting.

### **New business**

A. Habitat Council projects- Jim Gaskill explained the Upland game portion of the Habitat Council funding process. Since there are many projects being proposed this year, he felt it appropriate to review the proposals during several meetings, instead of all in one long meeting just prior to the final decisions by the council. Committee members were asked to consider the requests and be prepared to prioritize them for the Council. The following proposals were discussed:

1. Utah Lake sportsman access and maintenance area. SE and W of Lake. \$6,400—constitutes 40% of request.
  - a. Why is Habitat Council asking upland for money? Pheasants. May want to reduce down to 20%--trade with waterfowl contribution. May also want to account for fisherman access.
2. Long Ridge guzzlers—Mona area. East side of range from Mona Reservoir to Nephi Airport. Up to 19 guzzlers, Nevada style. \$14,180—constitutes 100% of request.
3. Valley Mountain—West side near Gunnison. 8 guzzlers, Nevada style. \$5,000—constitutes 100% of request.
4. Tabby Mountain. Lop and scatter juniper. \$600—10% of request.

5. Currant Creek. Lop and scatter. \$200—5% of request.
6. Price Cold Spring fence, near Bruin Point. \$15,800—20% of request. Protect spring against wild horses and cattle.
7. Weeds of Utah calendar--\$400.
8. Desert Lake WMA—South of Price. \$2,000—50% of request. To control purple loosestrife.
9. Utah Hill guzzler maintenance project—near Beaver dam wash. Nevada and big game style. \$5,200—20% from upland.
10. Pauvant WMA, near Delta and Holden. \$4,000—80% from upland, for drought-resistant trees. \$10,000—100% from upland, for land/water purchase.
11. Topaz Slough, NW of Delta. Seed grasses, etc. \$938—75% of funds.
12. Panguitch Creek WMA, near Panguitch. Juniper chaining. \$7,500—15% of project.

#### B. New Committee Chair

1. No volunteers or nominations. Jim Gaskill agreed to serve for an additional month. Discussion of duties of chair—chair writes monthly agenda, conducts meeting (ensures meeting closes by 8:00 pm), and composes letters to legislature, recommendations, organizes volunteer efforts from committee. Renewed call for a new chair.

#### III. Next meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. at the DWR State offices at 1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City.

Everyone is invited to attend these meetings; it's an opportunity for you to get any issues you know about onto the table.

Let us know of donations, projects, etc., made by your group we want to publicize good activities!

If you know of other interested parties who should get copies of the minutes, and who are involved in upland game organizations or programs, please get us their name. If you want to make an electronic mail input, please send it to one of the following:

Dave Olsen, [davewolsen@utah.gov](mailto:davewolsen@utah.gov)

Jim Gaskill, [jhgaskill@weber.edu](mailto:jhgaskill@weber.edu)

### **Upland game on the Internet**

You can get more Utah upland game information at <http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame/> including the past minutes for this committee, news, proclamations, and information about upcoming public meetings.

### **Adjourn.**

\*Respectfully submitted. Steve Gaskill.